

Message

From: Blair, Susanna [Blair.Susanna@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/21/2019 2:32:17 PM
To: Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]
CC: Baptist, Erik [Baptist.Erik@epa.gov]; Bertrand, Charlotte [Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov]; Keller, Kaitlin [keller.kaitlin@epa.gov]; Hanley, Mary [Hanley.Mary@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Hearing Q and A on PFAS - OW AA March 28

See below

1. When will the next set of priority chemicals be released? Is PFAS on that list?

On March 21, 2019 EPA released a list of 40 chemicals to initiate the prioritization process under amended TSCA. This process must take between 9 to 12 months and culminates with a determination of high or low priority for risk evaluation. Those chemicals determined to be high priority will be evaluated for risk. As required by TSCA, by December 22, 2019 EPA must have designated 20 chemicals as low priority, and begin risk evaluation on 20 high priority chemicals.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large and diverse family of chemicals. EPA recently released a PFAS Action Plan, which outlines the agency's approach to identifying and understanding PFAS exposures and tasks EPA with finalizing the MCL (minimum contaminant level) rulemaking, proposing a regulatory determination for PFOA and PFOS, proposing a nationwide drinking water monitoring program for PFAS, and other actions. [this should be a higher level list – that is the main areas covered in the Plan, e.g. Reducing Exposures, Understanding PFAS Toxicity, Identifying PFAS and Addressing PFAS Exposures and Research, Development and Tech Asst.] Through this Plan, EPA is leading the national effort to understand PFAS and reduce PFAS risks to the public [from pg 1 of Plan]. A number of the actions included in the PFAS Action Plan will generate data and information will be highly useful to OPPT for prioritizing and conducting risk evaluations under TSCA in the future.

2. When a risk evaluation is completed under TSCA what health information is known? Can this be used to develop a health advisory?

TSCA requires EPA conduct a risk evaluation on chemicals which must include both hazard and exposure assessments. It is likely that the hazard assessment (e.g., toxicity tests and hazard identification and dose-response analyses) would inform or could be useful in developing a health advisory; however, specific approaches or methods for deriving a risk determination in a TSCA risk evaluation and the advisory level in a health advisory may differ.

Susanna W. Blair, PhD

Special Assistant - Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
202.564.4371 (office) | 202.322.0538 (cell) | Blair.susanna@epa.gov

From: Beck, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 10:29 AM
To: Blair, Susanna <Blair.Susanna@epa.gov>
Cc: Baptist, Erik <Baptist.Erik@epa.gov>; Bertrand, Charlotte <Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov>; Keller, Kaitlin <keller.kaitlin@epa.gov>; Hanley, Mary <Hanley.Mary@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Hearing Q and A on PFAS - OW AA March 28

First paragraph provide dates of our actions. No need to be vague.
Thanks.

Nancy B. Beck, Ph.D., DABT
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
P: [202-564-1273](tel:202-564-1273)
beck.nancy@epa.gov

On Mar 21, 2019, at 10:26 AM, Blair, Susanna <Blair.Susanna@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks Erik. I removed the last sentence.

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Susanna W. Blair, PhD

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From: Baptist, Erik

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 10:12 AM

To: Blair, Susanna <Blair.Susanna@epa.gov>; Beck, Nancy <Beck.Nancy@epa.gov>; Bertrand, Charlotte <Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov>

Cc: Keller, Kaitlin <keller.kaitlin@epa.gov>; Hanley, Mary <Hanley.Mary@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Hearing Q and A on PFAS - OW AA March 28

Edits below.

Erik Baptist

Deputy Assistant Administrator

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From: Blair, Susanna

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 9:52 AM

To: Beck, Nancy <Beck.Nancy@epa.gov>; Bertrand, Charlotte <Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov>; Baptist, Erik <Baptist.Erik@epa.gov>

Cc: Keller, Kaitlin <keller.kaitlin@epa.gov>; Hanley, Mary <Hanley.Mary@epa.gov>

Subject: Hearing Q and A on PFAS - OW AA March 28

Hello,

Apologies for the direct email, but I need to turn these around ASAP. Dave Ross's hearing is March 28th and OW is putting together his TPs. Below are two questions on PFAS with OPPT's draft responses.

Thanks,
Susanna

1. When will the next set of priority chemicals be released? Is PFAS on that list?

EPA released a list of 40 chemicals to initiate the prioritization process under amended TSCA. This process must take between 9 to 12 months and culminates with a determination of high or low priority for risk evaluation. Those chemicals determined to be high priority will be evaluated for risk. EPA has ~~only~~ chosen chemicals ~~only~~ from the 2014 Update to the TSCA Work Plan, ~~as directed by TSCA~~, and no PFAS chemicals are on the Work Plan. Hence, no PFAS chemicals are on this list. [Nancy noted yesterday that this is not the best justification – here is what she said: I would be inclined to delete that sentence in its entirety. We said we would consider hot topics/priorities so to me saying we chose the workplan only is not a good excuse. Best to focus on the reasons why its not a good use of time to evaluate PFAS (complicated mixtures, science not ripe- research ongoing to better characterize hazards).]

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